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EDC 102

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Compared to the experiences most students have in elementary school, mine is fairly unusual. Up until eighth grade, I was homeschooled. I stayed home with my two brothers and was taught the majority of my life by my mom. While this type of schooling is not seen by society as the normal or the typical way of going through elementary school, I believe that my education was the same as, if not better than, those who attended public elementary school.

While I never had the opportunity to experience recess or special field trips in my elementary school years, I did get to take nature classes, learn how to knit and be taught in a co-op setting with other homeschooled students. I learned most of my basic mathematics through a DVD program, spent a lot of free time reading, and my moms general knowledge of the world. After reading the second chapter of *Savage Inequalities*, I was shocked to learn that in the city of Chicago, “27 percent of high school graduates read at the eighth grade level or below; and a large proportion of these students read at less than sixth grade level” (pg. 71). This statistic shocked me because reading is something I have always enjoyed, something I do not even remember learning as it comes so natural now. Some people believe that children that are homeschooled receive less of an education, but how can that be true when there are statistics as listed above coming from a public school?

There will never be a time in my life that I regret not going to school earlier, as I feel I learned more from the world being homeschooled than I would have learned in a classroom every day. The atmosphere I learned in ranged from my house, to the outdoors, to music classes and many other places. Reading about the sewage leakage and chemical burn off that affected schools in East St. Louis forced me to realize that not every child is fortunate enough to have an education like mine. Elementary school is a vital time for growth in an educational way as well as on a individual level and this can only be achieved through uplifting, positive and well rounded settings. If I had gone to elementary school, I do not feel I would have been affected negatively as the schools in the area I live in are well-funded and well equipped. However, each time I sit down to read *Savage Inequalities* I’m reminded how thankful I am to have been homeschooled through elementary school.